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Trends

ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, March 6, 1980 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended March 1 totaled an estimated 18.7 billion ton-miles, 13.8 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 9 weeks of 1980 was an estimated 153 billion ton-miles, 12.3 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended March 1 totaled 458,975 cars, 4.9 percent above 1979, and 3.6 percent higher than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 1.6 percent in the East, 3.9 percent in the South, and 7.9 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1979, 10 of the 21 commodity groups showed increases. Coal loadings were up 20,316 cars, or 23.6 percent, and grain traffic showed a gain of 8,585 cars, or 38.6 percent. Fifteen of the 21 groups were up over the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback revenue freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended February 23 totaled 33,249 cars, down 0.3 percent from the corresponding week of 1979, and 59,903 trailers and/or containers, 0.3 percent lower than last year. Both weeks included the Washington's Birthday holiday.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 8 weeks of the year was 262,393 cars, 3.2 percent higher than last year, and 473,297 trailers and/or containers, up 5.5 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 3/1/80.

	Loadings in Week ended March 1, 1980		Change from Corresponding Week 1979			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	30,821	I	8,585	38.6	I	357	1.2
Other farm products	4,164	I	243	6.2	D	98	2.3
Metallic ores	23,160	D	2,017	8.0	I	1,582	7.3
Coal	106,522	I	20,316	23.6	D	403	0.4
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	13,634	D	208	1.5	I	561	4.3
Nonmetallic minerals	14,286	I	357	2.6	I	925	6.9
Grain mill products	18,542	I	110	0.6	I	284	1.6
Food and kindred products	19,692	I	491	2.6	I	1,557	8.6
Primary forest products	21,139	D	303	1.4	D	288	1.3
Lumber and wood products except furniture	11,803	I	560	5.0	I	729	6.6
Pulp, paper and allied products	22,470	I	1,674	8.0	I	805	3.7
Chemicals and allied products	30,800	I	560	1.9	I	2,381	8.4
Petroleum products	6,365	D	668	9.5	D	81	1.3
Stone, clay and glass products	16,219	D	759	4.5	I	1,390	9.4
Coke	7,063	D	261	3.6	I	740	11.7
Metals and products	19,317	D	97	0.5	I	1,919	11.0
Motor vehicles and equipment	21,099	D	4,325	17.0	D	141	0.7
Waste and scrap materials	14,065	I	62	0.4	I	467	3.4
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	12,283	D	1,381	10.1	I	1,008	8.9
All other carloads	45,233	D	1,162	2.5	I	2,083	4.8
LCL traffic	298	D	252	45.8	D	9	2.9
Total Cars Loaded	458,975	I	21,525	4.9	I	15,768	3.6
Corresponding week of 1979	437,450						

	1980	1979	% Change	
Total Cars Loaded (9 weeks)	3,914,153	3,623,456	I	8.0
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
8 weeks cumulative	134.5	119.9	I	12.1
Week ended March 1	18.7	16.5	I	13.8
9 weeks cumulative	153.2	136.4	I	12.3

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